the workmen, for the way in which the works had been carried out.

The hall floor, for convenience of sight and hearing, slopes upwards from the platform, which is on a curve at about 2 feet from the floor. The walls are faced with Roman cement, stone coloured, and relieved by pilasters. The ceiling is divided by beams into compartments, the two central filled with ground glass skylights, and surrounded with perforated zinc ventilators. From each angle of these also depends a bronze chandelier. The wall on the platform side is set in with wood painted of a deep blue for chalk illustrations to lectures. An apparatus for warming the hall with hot water has been fitted up. The chief entrance is from Tower-lane; a more characteristic and dignified entrance, however, is wanted, to be in keeping with the extended scale and importance of the institution as it now exists.

DISTRICT SURVEYORS' FEES.

It is perfectly well known to the profession, that there is but one district-surveyor who has the brass to send in *such* an account as that quoted in your last week's paper; he is the same who was exposed recently for having charged 1*l.* 15*s.* for surveying the fixing of an Arnott's ventilator, and his name is too familar to all our class. But THE BUILDER is now taken in by and perused at clubs, and by mercantile men, and private families, many of them our personal friends or our clients, who are fortunate enough not to have heard the name of the person in question.

Your kindness to him, in withholding his name from the public eye, I for one cannot "appreciate," for your generosity is bestowed at my expense and that of my brother surveyors, who are not a little indignant at the dirt which this man is throwing upon the whole body. With due submission, too, I beg to differ from you on the propriety of your silence, in another respect besides its evident injustice. I look upon you as a public moralist in all matters relating to building; you freely indulge in the pleasure of praise, when praise is merited; and I humbly think that it is your *duty* to censure when the reverse is the case, and to censure most severely, too, when such very gross attempts at exaction are persevered in, as the one now made public. It may be said that the award is sufficiently condemnatory. It would be so, no doubt, if this were the first offence, but to an old offender the lash ought to be laid on less scrupulously, and in this case it would require a relay of builders to handle it well.

I regret exceedingly (but for his sake alone) that I feel myself compelled to make these remarks; and if you had only named the man, I should not have said one word; but I affirm that, by your silence on that head, you have indirectly implicated my credit and that of many others, in the subject-matter of your statement; and whilst I write to deny that I am the surveyor alluded to, I trust I shall be excused for expressing myself with some of the indignation which I feel.

HENRY BAKER.

Upper Gower-street, March 11, 1850.

WATER FOR THE CITY.*

MR. HAYWOOD has rapidly followed up the report recently noticed in THE BUILDER by the present, constituting, in fact, a little book on water-supply. He gives it as his opinion—

"Firstly, that the water companies should be bound to supply 30 gallons per head per diem, should the anticipated prospective fair increase of consumption take place.

Secondly, that *whether a constant supply is or is not given*, it is desirable that a *supply at a pressure sufficient* to deliver water at the tops of all the houses should be given uniformly throughout the city of London. That if a *constant supply* is given upon the *intermittent system*, and adequate cisternage is provided so that water may be drawn at all times between the intervals of supply—the supply *is practically constant* to the consumers; but that many instances exist where, if the constant supply fulfilled its signification, and cisterns could be dispensed with, it would be a great benefit. That inasmuch as it appears questionable whether it is expedient to discontinue the use of cisterns, even if the constant supply be given—and also, that it may be found necessary to incur a large expense to effect and maintain a constant supply, without a commensurate benefit, application should be made for the trial of the system of *constant supply at high pressure* upon a particular district within the city of London for a given period, in order to determine accurately what are the effects of its introduction as regards waste, and what benefits may practically be derived from it."

Though not specially referred to him, the author also treats pretty fully on the subject of quality and price."

* Report to the Committee upon Health of the London City Sewers Commission, on the Supply of Water to the City. By W. Haywood, Surveyor to the Commission.

Miscellanea.

BUILDING SOCIETY DISPUTES.—In a chancery suit, at the instance of Mr. Seagrave, for the redemption of a mortgage of leasehold property by the solicitor and trustees of the Camberwell Building and Investment Society, whose rules were drawn up in conformity with the provisions of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 32, Mr. Parker, for the plaintiff, argued that his case was distinguishable from "Mosley v. Baker," decided by Vice-Chancellor Wigram (17 *Law Journal*, N.S., 257), inasmuch as he had not discounted or anticipated his shares, but had merely received money on the security of his property, and that if he repaid the amount he had received, he continued a member of the society. This was a loan upon security; "Mosley v. Baker" was a case of purchase of shares in the strictest sense of the term. For the defendants it was contended that the case must be governed by "Mosley v. Baker." Vice-Chancellor Sir J. L. Knight Bruce, without calling upon Mr. Parker for a reply, gave judgment, and observed that he had given the case very careful consideration. He thought the notice given by plaintiff of his wish to satisfy the mortgage, one month before the commencement of the suit, was perfectly valid and binding, the deed not precluding such notice. Plaintiff was entitled to have restored to him the property comprised in the deed upon paying the balance of the 544*l.* at the end of a month from the notice, with interest at 4*l.* per cent. from that time, he having credit given him for the monthly payments of 8*s.* 6*d.*, so far as they had been made by him to that period. The plaintiff ought to be debited with the monthly payment of 3*s.* 6*d.* for redemption money, so far as not paid by him within the same period, but not with any monthly payment in respect of any period subsequent to the end of the month in which notice was given. The case of "Mosley v. Baker," he was of opinion, did not govern the present case. Upon the subject of costs he thought that the rules and the deed were of such a description that there ought to be no costs allowed on either side. During the debate in this case, the judge, as well as the plaintiff's counsel, gave expression at some length to sentiments in regard to building societies in general, as at present constituted, in entire accordance with those repeatedly pronounced in THE BUILDER.

WIDE ESTIMATING.—Tenders for repairs, and alterations to the machinery and going gear in Sunbury windmill: Mr. Edward Ryde, engineer:—

Stewart, Clement's-lane	£170 0
Chamberlin, Hampton Wick ..	162 0
Smith & Co., Princes-street, Leicester-square	99 0
Ashby, Croydon	69 0
Bishop and Spencer, Guildford	59 8
Moore, Sevenoaks (accepted) ..	51 0
Budgin (too late)	51 0

* A "Metropolitan Parochial Water Supply Association" has been instituted for the practical application of the following propositions:—1. That water is not a proper object for mercantile profit. 2. That its unlimited and pure supply ought to be furnished at the bare cost of its distribution. 3. That it is the interest and the duty of the community to enforce the introduction of an abundant supply of pure water into every house in the metropolis, without exception or distinction of class, on the principle of constant service and high pressure. 4. That the necessary supply should be managed by a parochial representation, regulated by a competent commission chosen by the consumers, and paid for by a parish rate on the adjustment of an equal assessment. 5. That the supply of water to great cities is a duty which should be undertaken by the public, and that the right of the poor to a competent supply of this primary element is as clear as the duty of the community to place the indigent beyond the want of bread, although 70,000 houses within the metropolitan districts are left without any constituted supply of water, and the proportion furnished to each consumer, already totally inadequate, is yearly diminished by the wants of 45,000 additional inhabitants.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 25th inst., for station-houses and gate-lodges between Nottingham and Grantham, for the Ambergate and Boston Junction Railway; by 26th, for making and constructing drains and sewers at Eton; by 22nd, for erecting about forty carcasses of houses at Dalston; by 23rd, for the erection of twenty carcasses of houses at Kingsland-road; by 23rd, for carpenters' work on the metropolis roads: by 22nd, for repairs of pavements, &c., at Poplar; by 21st, for paving in St. George's-in-the-East; by 21st, for paving and repairing streets and ways in St. James's, Clerkenwell; by 1st April, for the construction and erection of iron roofing over 6,800 square yards of new London Terminus of Brighton and South Coast Railway; by 25th inst., for 440 wheel tyres for carriages and waggons, also 400 bearing springs and 200 buffer springs for the Eastern Counties Railway; and by 19th, for repairing turnpike roads at Wearmouth.

METROPOLITAN SEWERS COMMISSION: DRAINAGE OF LONDON.—At a general committee meeting on Friday last, the report from Sir H. De la Beche, Captain Dawson, Sir John Burgoyne, and Mr. R. Stephenson, on the drainage plans, was received. The private deliberations of the committee occupied nearly three hours, but the report has not yet been submitted for consideration in open court. ——Considerable dissatisfaction has been expressed by the rate-payers of St. James's, Westminster, on the subject of the new commission's proceedings. At a recent vestry, the following resolution was proposed:—"That the vestry learn with surprise and regret that the new Commission of Sewers for the Westminster district, in which this parish is comprised, have sanctioned a large outlay of the rates for the construction of a new and additional sewer, which is to have its outfall into the Thames, thereby, in the opinion of this Board, contravening the great object of the appointment of the present commission, which was to devise a plan for diverting the sewage from the river.—That the vestry have learnt with equal regret that the Court of Sewers have appointed an additional officer at the large salary of 1,500*l.* per annum, whose first act has been to continue the old system of partial and objectionable drainage.—That they had looked forward to the present commission as a guarantee against any further outlay of the rates in new works until the great object sought by the public was decided upon."

MORE IRON HOUSES FOR CALIFORNIA.—Mr. E. T. Bellhouse, of Manchester, who seems to do all the *ironing* for that gold-*washing* region, where *manging*, too, is not unknown, has just now completed two more iron houses for California. The frame-work and sides are made of iron, corrugated in order to impart to them additional strength. One of the houses consists only of a single story, containing a sitting and bed-room. The walls, floor, and ceiling are boarded entirely over, and the interior thus possesses an air of comfort. The sitting-room measures 11 feet by 6, and is 8 feet 3 inches in height. It is furnished with a stove of an improved description. The value of this house is 90*l.* The second house is of two stories, and contains, altogether, eight rooms,—three parlours, and a kitchen below, and four bed-rooms. Each of the two front parlours (one being on either side of the door) is 12 feet square; while the two back rooms measure 12 feet by 10, the height being proportionate. The bed-rooms are exactly the same size as the lower apartments, with the exception of one, which, extending over the lobby, measures 14 feet by 12. The sides, floors, and ceilings, like those of the first house, are boarded and painted. The value of the latter house is 160*l.*

THE MASONRY OF THE BRITANNIA-BRIDGE.—At an entertainment given on the day the tubular bridge was opened, Mr. Stephenson mentioned incidentally that there had been 3 cubic feet erected per minute for twelve hours each day, six days per week, for three successive years.

NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS.—The sum required for the completion of such portions of the New House of Commons as are necessary for the convenient transaction of business is estimated by Mr. Barry, in a statement recently issued, at 102,180*l.*

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